

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/EP 03/03667A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A47L9/00 A47L9/36

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 A47L F16L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	DE 298 16 382 U (EWA LUFTTECHNIK GMBH) 19 November 1998 (1998-11-19) page 3, paragraph 1 page 8, line 17-20; figure 1 ---	1
A	US 4 910 828 A (BLASE MICHAEL R ET AL) 27 March 1990 (1990-03-27) column 5, line 50 - line 56 column 7, line 48 -column 8, line 3; figures 1-3,8 ---	1,2, 9-13,17
A	DE 295 00 994 U (LUCAU MANFRED) 15 May 1996 (1996-05-15) page 4, paragraph 4; figures 1,3,4 ---	1,3,4,9, 11,13,18

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :	
A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	*T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date	*X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	*Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	*&* document member of the same patent family
P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
19 November 2003	28/11/2003
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Papadimitriou, S

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 3 030 650 A (ERNEST KIRALY) 24 April 1962 (1962-04-24) column 2, line 15 – line 20 column 2, line 23 – line 25; figure 4 ----	1,14,15
A	WO 89 12195 A (UTVAEGEN AB) 14 December 1989 (1989-12-14) page 1, paragraph 8 –page 2, paragraph 1 page 2, line 19 – line 23; figures 1,2 ----	1,19
A	GB 2 304 029 A (MOORE CLIFFORD A) 12 March 1997 (1997-03-12) figures 1,2A,2B -----	6,7,14, 15

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Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: 20
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 20

Present claim 20 relates to an extremely large number of possible appliances. In fact, the claim contains so many options and possible permutations that a lack of clarity and conciseness within the meaning of Article 6 PCT and Rule 6.2(a) PCT arises to such an extent as to render a meaningful search of this claim impossible. Consequently, the search has been carried out for those parts of the application which do appear to be clear and concise, namely claims 1-19.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
DE 29816382	U 19-11-1998	DE	29816382 U1	19-11-1998
US 4910828	A 27-03-1990	NONE		
DE 29500994	U 15-05-1996	DE	29500994 U1	15-05-1996
US 3030650	A 24-04-1962	NONE		
WO 8912195	A 14-12-1989	AU SE WO	3752789 A 8802027 A 8912195 A1	05-01-1990 01-12-1989 14-12-1989
GB 2304029	A 12-03-1997	NONE		